

# WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1851.

## THE LIGHTHOUSE ESTABLISHMENT.

By an act of Congress, passed at the last session, the Secretary of the Treasury was required to cause "a board to be convened, to be composed of two officers of the navy of high rank, two officers of the engineers of the army, and such civil officer of high scientific attainments as may be under the orders or at the disposition of the Treasury Department, and a junior officer of the navy to act as secretary to said board, whose duty it shall be, under instructions from the Treasury Department, to inquire into the condition of the Lighthouse Establishment of the United States, and make a general detailed report and programme to guide legislation in extending and improving the present system of construction, illumination, inspection, and superintendence."

Under the preceding provisions of the act of Congress, we learn that the following gentlemen have been selected to form the above Board, viz. Commodore W. B. SHUBRICK and Commander S. F. DUPONT, of the Navy; Brevet Brigadier General J. G. TOTTEN, Chief of the Engineers; and Lieut. Col. JAMES KEARNEY, of the Topographical Engineers; PROFESSOR A. D. BACHE, Chief of the Coast Survey; and Lieut. THORNTON S. JENKINS, of the Navy, as secretary.

The Board will meet in this city in the ensuing month, for the purpose of organization, previous to entering upon their highly important duties. These duties will embrace a full examination of the whole of the Lighthouse System of the United States, including a report as to any new lighthouses which may be required, and the selection of the sites for them; the propriety of altering or changing the location, or of discontinuing any of those already existing; the mode of lighting them, furnishing the needful supplies, and superintending them; and reporting generally on any point connected with the system.

The labor will necessarily be great, as the task involves the necessity of a personal inspection of all the lighthouses, light-vessels, and buoys, amounting to some hundreds, along the whole of the Atlantic coast, from Eastport to Cape Florida, and round all of the Gulf coast to the Rio Grande.

From a Board, so judiciously selected, of Officers of high professional character and experience, valuable and reliable reports may be expected, and results of the greatest advantage to this branch of the public service.

The late Proclamation of the President of the United States, against infractions of the laws of the United States by foreigners and others engaged in organizing another expedition for the purpose of invading the Island of Cuba, was not, of course, issued without sufficient grounds. Information from the shores and islands of the Gulf of Mexico, and from other points South, as well as from New York, left no doubt of the atrocious design to renew the criminal enterprise which has once been so signally defeated.

On Saturday last, by the active exertions of the Marshal of the southern district of New York and his deputies, as we learn from the New York papers, several persons—some of them citizens who were known to have been engaged in the former expedition, and some of them foreigners—were arrested upon affidavit made of similar present designs, and, being taken before a United States Commissioner, (Mr. BRIGHAM,) were held to bail to answer the charge in the Court of the United States.

The very proper action by the Executive of the United States, and the promptness with which the United States authorities in New York have seconded it, have, let us trust, nipped in the bud this new conspiracy against the peace and the honorable repute of our country.

## LONDON EXHIBITION.

We are pleased to learn that the SECRETARY of the INTERIOR has commissioned one of the Agents of the United States Executive Committee at London, CHARLES F. STANSBURY, Esq., to make a report of all those matters connected with the Industrial Exhibition which may be calculated to enlighten us on the present state of the mechanic arts in Europe. The Report will be published under the direction of the Commissioner of Patents, and, from the known taste, industry, and ability of Mr. Stansbury, will be well calculated to promote the cause of science and diffuse valuable information among our own people.

## MORE BLOCKS FOR THE MONUMENT.

We learn from the Philadelphia papers that a fine block of light-colored marble for the Washington Monument is now in course of preparation at the quarry of Major FRITZ. It is contributed by the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the United States.

We learn also that a handsome Block, tastefully ornamented with the emblems of the Order, has just arrived from Boston, as a contribution from the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the State of Massachusetts; and that the Grand Lodge of Virginia, of the same Order, at their late annual session in Richmond, made a liberal appropriation to provide a block to be presented in the name of that body.

The repeated contributions which continue to be made, in material as well as money, by the various organized associations of the country, afford gratifying evidence of the patriotic interest felt by the masses of the people in the success of this noble structure.

The St. Louis Intelligencer states that six companies of the 7th Infantry left Jefferson Barracks on the 17th instant, en route for Texas. Four companies of the same regiment left Fort Leavenworth, a few days previous, by the land route, for Fort Gibson, on the Arkansas.

## THE LATE CONSPIRACY IN HAYTI.

Late advices from Hayti, received at Boston, furnish some particulars of the late plot to overthrow the existing Imperial Government of Hayti, and to re-establish the Republic. The conspiracy extended all over the Island, and many leading blacks were implicated. In addition to the arrest of a large number at Port au Prince, including one or two of the Ministry, about one hundred were arrested at Cape Haytien, including several in office; also, the Commissary of Police at Gonaives. At or near the capital the Minister of Public Justice and several of his fellow-conspirators, as well as several of those arrested at Cape Haytien, have been shot. It was supposed that many more would suffer the penalty of death.

Relative to the demand made by Com. PARKER, of the *Saranac*, for damages for the illegal imprisonment of Capt. MAYO, of the *Leander*, we learn that the Haytien Government informed him, in substance, that they were willing to pay Capt. Mayo some compensation, but refused to give the sum demanded for the detention of the vessel. This answer Com. PARKER will report to the authorities at Washington. It is also stated that the Haytien Government refuses to pay the claims in favor of American merchants, to which Mr. GREEN, and more lately Mr. WALSH, has been deputed to call their attention.

Mr. WALSH, the American Commissioner, has left the capital for other parts of the Island. What was the result of his negotiations, in conjunction with the French and English consuls, to induce Emperor SOLOUQUE to settle the quarrel between the Haytiens and Dominicans, is not certainly known, but the story is that the project has entirely failed.

It was the general opinion that SOLOUQUE was never more powerful in the Island than at the present moment.

We learn that ROGER C. WRIGHTMAN, Esq., has been appointed Chief Clerk in the Patent Office, in the place of DeWitt Lawrence, Esq., resigned; and that Messrs. LANE and COOPER, Assistant Examiners, having been promoted, their places have been filled by the appointment of THOMAS H. DEWITT, of New York, and HENRY BALDWIN, of Nashville, Tennessee.

A correspondent of one of our Northern exchanges, commenting upon the recent slave case in Boston, alludes to Mr. TUKEY, the City Marshal, who has been frequently mentioned of late for his promptness in arresting gamblers and other offenders, and especially for his energy in aiding to prevent any outbreak of the abolitionists and to preserve the peace of the city, which services seem not to have been fortunate enough to obtain the approval of this writer. He says he is weary of hearing his name, *Tukey, Tukey*—nothing but *Tukey*. Beside the modern instances which might be quoted to sustain the worthy Marshal under this disapprobation, we hope that his historical reading will serve to recall to his recollection the parallel case of an Athenian of old, in favor of whose ostracism the voter could only allege as a reason that he was tired of hearing him called the *Just*.

Mr. CLAY returned to his home at Ashland on the 20th instant. The Lexington Observer says that his health has greatly improved since he left New Orleans, where he was laboring under the effects of a cold, probably contracted during his voyage from Havana. It adds: "At no period of Mr. CLAY's illustrious and ever-memorable career has he enjoyed to the extent he now does the sincere and heartfelt admiration and regard of almost the entire population of Kentucky. They regard him as a great public benefactor, instead of, as formerly, a great party leader; and even the fiercest of his hitherto political opponents do not hesitate to award to him the meed of praise to which his recent patriotic efforts in behalf of our glorious Union give him just claim. Long may the noble old patriot, statesman, and orator be spared to do battle for his country against those who would destroy her fair proportions and make her a shapeless mass of ruins!"

It is stated, to the credit of the Bostonians, that out of 400 men composing the Boston Light Infantry Regiment, under the command of Lieut. Col. BOYD, only one man was found reluctant to volunteer in arms to support the U. S. Marshal in the execution of the Fugitive Slave act, during the recent excitement there on that subject.

As a matter of interest to the survivors of the family, it is proper to correct an error in a late statement in this paper. Commodore WALTER BROOKE was commander-in-chief of the State naval forces of Virginia during a part of the Revolutionary war. He having resigned, Commodore JAMES BARRON succeeded him as commander-in-chief, and served to the end of the war.

The Convention of Delegates from the States Rights Associations of South Carolina is to be held on Monday next, at Charleston. Upon this Convention, it is said, the future course of the State will depend.

ROBERT M. McLANE, Esq., of Baltimore, late Representative of that District in Congress, was among the passengers for California who sailed from New York in the steamer *Ohio* on Friday last.

MASSACHUSETTS SPECIAL ELECTION.—A special election is appointed to be held in the 2d, 4th, and 7th Congressional Districts of Massachusetts on the 26th of May for the choice of Representatives in the next Congress. These being the second trials under the new law in those districts, (which have hitherto failed to elect,) a plurality of votes will decide the contest.

## THE WOODWORTH PATENT CASE.

The Philadelphia Ledger of Saturday publishes a report of the *Charge of Judge GRIER*, in the United States Circuit Court for that District, in the case of "Sloat vs. Spring and others, for an infringement of the Woodworth patent," with the *finding of the Jury* in the case, and the *remarks of the Judge* thereupon. These last are sufficiently important to claim a place in our columns, as follows:

VERDICT.—The Jury found: 1st. That Wm. Woodworth was the original inventor of the machine patented by him December 27, 1828.

2d. That the patented patent of July 8, 1845, is, in the same invention, intended to have been patented by the patent of December 27, 1828.

3d. That the machine of the defendants infringes upon the said patented patent of July 8, 1845.

When the jury brought in their verdict, Judge GRIER remarked:

"I am obliged to you, gentlemen, for bringing in your verdict so soon, and, as I think, rightly. The Woodworth case has been tried in every circuit court in the Union, over and over again; and verdicts always found, upon each, every day, in its favor; and yet men will come almost every day and swear against its originality. I will consider it *prima facie* evidence of perjury in any person denying the validity of the Woodworth patent, or at least swearing to what he does not know to be true; and so I warn any man who comes with such an oath again. I hope no counsel will have anything more to do with it; I have had trouble enough, and the time of the court has been too much consumed with these cases. After twenty-three years' possession, and verdict upon verdict in its favor, men will still come forward and swear that something of the same kind existed before. Men will always be found to deny that some of the most important inventions in the world existed some forty years ago, and were then abandoned and lost sight of; but discovering so important to the world are not so easily lost sight of. I hope no gentleman will ever ask me to try an issue upon this patent again."

## THE FRONTIER AND THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Every arrival from California, from TEXAS, and NEW MEXICO, brings intelligence of some new outrage perpetrated by the Indians. There is every reason to believe that, encouraged by the impunity with which these outrages have hitherto been too often committed, they will make fearful inroads into the white settlements during the approaching summer.

The War Department, we are informed, is employing all the resources at its command to avert these calamities, but those resources are entirely disproportionate to the magnitude of the service.

The Executive has done its duty in this matter. The PRESIDENT, in his annual message, and the SECRETARY OF WAR and Commanding General, in their respective reports at the opening of the last session of Congress, all united in earnestly recommending an additional number of mounted men, experience having shown that infantry is of but little service against an enemy who is almost always mounted. Congress paid no attention to these recommendations.

But this was not all. At an early period of the session the SECRETARY OF WAR addressed communications to the Committee of Ways and Means, informing them that the appropriations for the Quartermaster's Department for the current fiscal year (ending 30th June next) would be insufficient. This deficiency arose in part from the fact that a portion of these appropriations had been applied to the payment of expenditures made or debts contracted during preceding years. Such deficiencies, in some of the Departments, in all of them, occur every year, and are provided for a matter of course; and yet the Committee of Ways and Means paid not the smallest attention to this communication. The consequence is, that the appropriations for the Quartermaster's Department for the current year are already exhausted. Important movements are now going on in the army requiring heavy disbursements in that department. Besides its ordinary expenditures, necessarily large in countries singularly destitute of all the means and appliances required for the support of an army, services of an unusual character are required of it. An entire regiment (the mounted riflemen) are now on their way from Oregon to Texas; a regiment of infantry has just been ordered from Jefferson barracks to the Indian country west of Arkansas; while the regiment now stationed in the latter country has been ordered further west to establish a chain of posts extending through the north of Texas, from Red river to the Rio Grande. Add to this that the War Department has been called upon to furnish escorts to the commission for surveying the Mexican boundary, to the party engaged in surveying the river Gila under a resolution of Congress, and to the Indian superintendents and agents created by recent acts to negotiate treaties with the Indians in California, and the numerous tribes that infest the vast plains and mountains on the route to Oregon. All these operations require large expenditures by the Quartermaster's Department; and yet, by a most extraordinary omission or neglect, that department is left without adequate means to discharge its important duties.

Some time since we alluded to the fact that the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives had assumed the responsibility of reducing the appropriations for the support of the army far below the estimates, and that too in opposition to the unanimous opinion of the Committee on Military Affairs, the chairman of which (Mr. BENT) challenged the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means to point out a single item of the estimates that could be reduced. We understand that the excuse for this haphazard legislation in regard to the appropriations for the next fiscal year was that Congress would meet long before it expired, and consequently in time to supply any deficiency; but what apology can be offered for omitting to provide for an ascertained deficiency in the appropriations for the current year—a deficiency, too, occasioned, in part, as we have said, by the applications of the funds appropriated for this year to the payment of expenditures of previous years? We are far from wishing to impute improper motives to any one. We cannot suppose it possible that the Committee of Ways and Means sought to embarrass the Administration by withholding supplies; we cannot believe that party spirit could be carried so far as to trifle with the lives of the defenceless inhabitants of the frontier. We leave to others to speculate about reasons or motives. The fact, however, is undoubted, and if adequate protection is not afforded to the people of the frontier, we wish them, and we wish the whole country to understand where the fault and the responsibility lie.—*Republic*.

MONSTROUS.—The Journal of Commerce quotes the following speech of Mr. GEORGE THOMPSON, in Canada. We rarely read Mr. Thompson's speeches, and have not met with the passage ourselves. If his words are correctly reported, the speaker is—beyond the pale of decent society: "I do not believe there is one Minister in the United States who believes what he says. I know enough of Ministers in that country to believe that they preach widely and desperately what they know to be false. These men deliberately go to their closets, and, for purely political and proselyte purposes, write sermons for the Sabbath day, which they all the while know to be palpably and damnable untrue!"

What must have been the feelings of his traveling companion, the Rev. Mr. MAX, of Syracuse, formerly of Boston? Could that gentleman keep his seat and hear such sentiments uttered? Such was not the case with Mr. MORSE, the senior editor of the New York Observer, who happened to be in London when Mr. Thompson gave utterance to statements equally false, which Mr. Morse contradicted, and put the defamer to silence.—*Com. Adv.*

ANOTHER ANTI-RENT OUTRAGE.—We learn from the Albany Register that on Wednesday last a body of Anti-Renters, in that county, perpetrated another of those outrages which have of late years so repeatedly brought reproach upon that part of the State. In this case, the victims of the malice of these outlaws had committed the offence, according to their peculiar notions of honesty, of serving process in several cases of delinquency for rent on the part of some of their agrarian associates. For doing this they had resolved to punish him; and accordingly, on Wednesday last, whilst he was engaged, agreeably to previous appointment, in measuring off the widow's dower of a farm of seven miles from Rensselaerville, a band of twenty or thirty cowardly ruffians, well armed, and disguised as Indians, suddenly seized and bound him, and afterwards forced him to submit to the indignity of a coat of tar and feathers, which was inflicted under circumstances of diabolical cruelty. After this, when his persecutors had in vain endeavored to extort from him a promise to serve no more papers, he was permitted to go to his home, which he reached about midnight. In stating the particulars of this outrage the "Register" expresses its indignation that such offences should have prevailed in that region for so many years, and that the law has so far become a dead letter that no redress can be obtained by the injured party. Shame that it is so. Such are the inevitable consequences of some of the doctrines of the "progressive" school of the present day; and it is a pity that those who, by inculcating these doctrines, stimulate their ignorant followers to the perpetration of crimes of which they cannot comprehend the magnitude, could not also be made to suffer the severest penalties due to the deluded people who commit such offences.

The Boston Courier states that orders from the Department at Washington have been received at the Charleston Navy Yard for the construction of a War Steamer at that place. She is to be larger than the *Princeton*, which was broken up a year or two since, and will be built on about the same plan, and have the same mode of propulsion.

The Norfolk Beacon of Saturday says: The U. S. Surveying Schooner *Wm. A. Graham*, Passed Midshipman FAY commanding, thirty days from Pensacola, arrived here yesterday before last.

## THE CITY OF BOSTON AND Mr. WEBSTER.

At the regular weekly meeting of the Common Council of the city of Boston on Wednesday the President read the following letters:

CORONAL COUNCIL ROOM,  
BOSTON, APRIL 18, 1851.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to transmit a certified copy of the preamble and resolutions, adopted by the unanimous vote of the Common Council of this city at their session of last evening, in reference to the refusal by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the request of your friends for the use of Faneuil Hall.

One of the rules of the Common Council provides that "in all cases the President may vote." I cheerfully availed myself of the privilege by recording my "aye" on the passage of the preamble and resolutions. It is with pleasure that I comply with the instructions of the Board to transmit to you an attested copy of them.

I remain, very sincerely, your friend and obd't serv't,  
FRANCIS BRINLEY, President.  
Hon DANIEL WEBSTER, Marshfield, Mass.

MARSHFIELD, SATURDAY MORNING,  
APRIL 19, 1851.

MY DEAR SIR: I have received your communication, transmitting copies of the preamble and resolutions adopted on the 17th instant by the unanimous vote of the body over which you preside.

I should be incapable of all just emotion if I delayed a moment to express my grateful thanks for a proceeding so friendly and so honorable towards myself.

I wish my stay in this vicinity could be such as to afford me an opportunity of calling, individually, upon you and all the members, and paying to each my personal regards.

There are, I know, members of the Council who entertain political opinions different from my own, and this makes me the more anxious to signify, in as emphatic manner, my sense, not only of the kindness and courtesy, but also of the manliness and independence which characterize their votes.

I shall not have the pleasure, during my present visit, of meeting the citizens of Boston.

That I have done within the last year, to maintain the Union, and preserve the relations of peace, friendly intercourse, commerce, and business among all the States, has not been done in a corner; and I shall not go into a corner to perform what may remain to be done. Nor shall I enter Faneuil Hall till its gates shall be thrown open, wide open, not "with impetuous sound, or grating harsh thunder," but with "harmonious sound, on golden harp moving," to let in, freely and to overflowing, you and your fellow-citizens, and all men, of all parties, who are true to Union as well as to liberty; men who can look around on the faces of the Patriots which adorn the walls of that sacred Temple, draw in with their deepest breath the appropriate inspiration, and stand upright and erect upon its pavement, in mild and heart-elastic, in the consciousness that they, too, are Americans, lovers of their country, and their whole country, and not unworthy to follow in the footsteps of their great forefathers.

If Providence shall be pleased to spare my life and health till that hour comes, I shall meet the citizens of Boston, and my voice shall be heard once more in the Cradle of American Liberty.

Till then, again thanking you and the members of the Council, I bid you and them farewell.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

To FRANCIS BRINLEY, Esq., President of the Board of Common Council of Boston.

CONNECTICUT ELECTION.—The Hartford Courant publishes the official returns of the vote for Governor at the late election in Connecticut. The recapitulation by counties is as follows:

Counties.	Foster.	Seymour.	Boyd.	Seat.
Hartford.....	5,782	6,271	415	
New Haven.....	5,016	5,096	371	8
New London.....	3,728	2,659	386	2
Fairfield.....	4,107	4,677	148	3
Windham.....	2,101	2,379	485	
Litchfield.....	3,994	3,938	398	
Middlesex.....	1,921	2,330	182	2
Tolland.....	1,802	1,837	145	2
Total, 1844.....	28,756	30,077	2,530	17
Total, 1850.....	28,209	29,022	2,976	
Increase.....	547	1,055	446	decrease.

THE COAST SURVEY.—The new Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Paris contains an historical notice of the Coast Survey of the United States. The concluding paragraph is as follows:

"In mentioning the eminent services rendered to science and humanity by the Coast Survey, we communicate but a small part of the results of this admirable enterprise. Directed as it is in all its branches, with zeal and activity, it cannot fail to add from year to year to the estimation in which it is held, not in the United States only, but still more in all the foreign countries where science and the applications of science to the arts of life are justly appreciated."

## STEAM SAWMILL FOR LIBERIA.

In the harbor Baltimore, which was chartered by the American Colonization Society, and which sailed from Savannah, Georgia, on the 10th of April, with 126 emigrants, a company of the emigrants carried with them a *Steam Sawmill*, with all the necessary appurtenances, to be located in the country of Sierra Leone. The cost of the whole machinery at Savannah was about \$3,000, the greater part of which was paid by an enterprising black man of Savannah, named EDWARD HALL, who, by industry and economy, had been enabled to purchase himself, his wife, and two grown brothers, all of whom accompanied him.

This will be the first introduction of steam-machinery into Liberia; but as a joint stock company of free colored persons in Virginia has lately been formed for the purpose of purchasing and carrying out a steam-mill, and as another company in Charleston, South Carolina, are making arrangements to carry out one next spring, the prospects of introducing steam machinery commensurate with the wants of the citizens of Liberia seems to be quite encouraging.

The steamer *Cleopatra*, which has been detained at New York on the ground of having been purchased for the Cuba expedition, is an old boat, which was formerly employed on the Sound. She is a capacious steamer, and had on board a large quantity of coal, occupying the forward cabin and hold, boiler room, and a quantity piled on the forward deck; a great number of water-casks, capable of containing some 7,000 gallons of water; and some sugar-boxes, &c., such as fire-arms are usually packed in, but on examining them they were found to contain hams and other articles. No firearms or munitions of war have been found on board. It was alleged that she was bound for Texas, and a Capt. WILSON claimed to be her commander.

The New York Courier gives the proceeds of an invoice of goods shipped by a firm of that city to California, the prime cost of which was \$120. The sum realized on it was \$533.50, about 400 per cent. The charge, however, for freight, balance, auction duties, &c. amounted to \$533.36, leaving a balance due on the original shipment of fourteen cents, which, with thirty-six cents more, were used in paying the postage from San Francisco on the letter conveying an account of the transaction.

ODD-FELLOWS IN VIRGINIA.—The Grand Lodge of Virginia, at its late session, elected the following gentlemen as officers for the ensuing year:

JAMES M. H. BURNETT, of Petersburg, Grand Master; JOHN R. EMMETT, of Fauquier county, Deputy Grand Master; JOHN V. K. EMMETT, of Wheeling, Grand Ward; DAVID H. REED, of Richmond, Grand Secretary; GEORGE W. TOLSON, of Richmond, Grand Treasurer; ISRAEL ROBINSON, Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of the United States.

The Order in the State is represented to be in a prosperous condition; as, indeed, it appears to be in most, if not in all the other States. The entire number of its Lodges, exclusive of Encampments, is about 2,500, with some 200,000 contributing members, and an annual revenue of a million and a half of dollars, which is liberally expended in advancing the beneficent purposes of the institution.

An opening was effected through the Tunnel near Lynchburg on Tuesday evening last. The aperture of course is still small, but sufficient to give a free circulation of air, which will add much to the comfort and convenience of the operators, as well as facilitate the progress of the work.  
[Lynchburg Virginian.]

## TRIBUTE TO PRESCOTT, THE HISTORIAN.

In a publication of the speeches of the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Eglintoun and others, at a soiree of the Glasgow Athenaeum, held in the City Hall of that place, January 28, 1851, we find the following passage complimentary to Wm. H. PRESCOTT, Esq., in the speech of the Duke of ARGYLE:

"Scotland, during the past year, was visited by a very eminent historian from the United States. My friend, Mr. Sheriff Allison, had the honor of entertaining him, and so had I. I mean Mr. Prescott, the author of the History of Ferdinand and Isabella. I ask you to attend to the circumstances of this gentleman. He is laboring under a personal infirmity, which prevents him from having that intimate and extensive knowledge, at least through the same media which other men acquire, by being able to devote their leisure hours to the reading of books. He labors under an infirmity of sight, and can only, therefore, use in his writings those materials which he gathers from the reading of other persons. Mr. Prescott is a republican, born in the West, accustomed to republican ideas in his own country, and imbued with all the spirit of republican patriotism. Look at the effect which his historical reading and historical study have had upon his highly cultivated mind. He has presented to you and to Europe a history of the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, written with great brilliancy of imagination, and with all the warmth of heart and loyalty which you might have expected from a cavalier or a courtier of Queen Isabella herself, [cheers,] so that by following that history you can enter into the spirit of that time, and have your interest as much excited as if you were reading a tale of the present day, and of your own circumstances."

## BURNING OF A CANE-BRAKE.

De Bow's Southern Review for April notices a pamphlet, by A. F. OLSTED, A. M., illustrated by an engraving, showing the extraordinary variety of whirlwinds occasioned by the burning of a cane-brake in North Alabama. The flames and smoke ascend after a most singular manner, and give rise to some curious investigations, which we have not space to follow with the ingenious author. From this work the "Review" extracts a description of the cane-brake:

"The cane, as is well known, belongs to the order of grasses, (Gramineae, family Avencuraceae.) It grows to a height of thirty-five or forty feet, hollow stem and two in diameter at base, and has a round, hollow stem, with knots every twelve or fourteen inches. At the top there is a head of foliage, brush-like in appearance, made up of long, slender leaves. The canes are met with on the banks of all the rivers in the extreme Southern and Southwestern States, particularly in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The rapidity of their growth is wonderful. It is reported that young plants sometimes increase ten inches in height in a single night, and a large tract of land in a favorable situation will become covered with full grown canes in an incredibly short period. They form dense thickets, the stems often standing but an inch or two apart, although rising thirty-five or forty feet. They thus constitute a barrier impenetrable by man and large animals, and consequently become a refuge for the most ferocious and dangerous of the forest. The canes are met with on the banks of all the rivers in the extreme Southern and Southwestern States, particularly in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The rapidity of their growth is wonderful. It is reported that young plants sometimes increase ten inches in height in a single night, and a large tract of land in a favorable situation will become covered with full grown canes in an incredibly short period. They form dense thickets, the stems often standing but an inch or two apart, although rising thirty-five or forty feet. They thus constitute a barrier impenetrable by man and large animals, and consequently become a refuge for the most ferocious and dangerous of the forest. 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